

Serial No. 10/618,871

Docket No. 5194 (0170-004)

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

No claims have been added or amended. Claims 26-31 have been canceled. Claims 13-25 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 13-25 have been allowed.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 26-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,432 to Lanphear ("the Lanphear patent"), U.S. Patent No. 5,427,337 to Biggs ("the Biggs patent") and U.S. Patent No. 6,474,665 to Fink ("the Fink patent"). Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Lanphear patent, the Biggs patent, the Fink patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,179,745 to Hebert ("the Hebert patent"). As claim 26-31 have been canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been rendered moot.¹

III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the

¹ Applicant notes that the cancellation of claims 26-31 is not an acquiescence to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Rather, claims 26-31 have been canceled in order to expedited issuance of a patent including allowed claims 13-25 and applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue claims 26-31 in a continuation application.

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application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

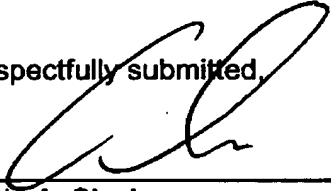
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

10/4/05
Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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